



Be an **ACE!**

Advocate for your
Child's
Education

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Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome
- Purpose: To provide informational tools and promote a robust discussion to support parents/guardians in advocating for their child(ren) in Knox County Schools.
- Introduction:
 - **My name is _____(Parent Name).**
 - **I am the parent of _____(Child's name).**
 - **I step up and support my child at school when he/she _____.**

Learning Goals

Parents will be able to.....

- Define advocate
- Identify opportunities at school when actions should be taken to advocate in the best interest of their child
- Identify policies, processes, and people in KCS that can aid families in advocating for their child(ren) in school
- Name 10 ways parents can effectively advocate for their child at school and in the school system

Definition – What is an Advocate?

Merriam Webster.com

- **Advocate**- **ad vo cate** -noun
 - person who speaks or writes in support or defense of a person, cause, etc. *an advocate of learning.*
 - a person who pleads for or in behalf of another; intercessor.
 - a person who pleads the cause of another in a court of law.
 - a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.
"he was an untiring advocate of education reform"
- **Synonyms**-
champion, upholder, supporter, backer, promoter, proponent, exponent, spokesman, spokeswoman, spokesperson, campaigner, fighter, crusader; propagandist, apostle, apologist, booster

Opportunities to Advocate

What do you advocate/support in your child's education?- HOW?

Share examples when a child may need a parent to advocate for their education.



KCS Advocacy 101

Policies, Processes & People

- Policies –Board of Education

- B-171 Complaints and Appeals to the Board
- B-230 Civility Code
- C-190 Complaints Under the Americans with Disabilities Act
- G-131 Complaints About School Personnel
- I-270 Family and Community Engagement

- Processes & People

- Advocating and addressing school concerns should **START FIRST** with
 - the appropriate teacher(s);
 - the principal or assistant principal -
 - the appropriate supervisor or director;
 - **OMBUDSMAN**; and
 - Director of Schools (Superintendent)

OMBUDSMAN

What is it and how do you say it?

- **WHAT IS THE OMBUDSMAN?**

- The Ombudsman serves as a neutral party that seeks and facilitates opportunities to resolve school and school-system issues or concerns from parents, community, and school staff.

- **WHOM DOES THE OMBUDSMAN ASSIST?**

- Stakeholders including parents, guardians, students, and school staff members. Stakeholders discuss or seek assistance in resolving or clarifying a school or school-system concern, problem, or complaint by phone, in writing, email, or in person.

- **WHAT ARE THE OMBUDSMAN RESPONSIBILITIES, SERVICES, and SUPPORTS?**

- Receive and track inquiries, concerns, and complaints from stakeholders and seek resolutions
- Serve as liaison between FAMILIES, schools, and COMMUNITY
- Facilitate communications and cooperative efforts to resolve inquiries from parents, community members, and school employees
- Gather and analyze information to assist individuals with inquiries, concerns, and complaints to determine best course of action or contacts

- **-....and MUCH MORE!**

CONTACT the OMBUDSMAN to SERVE and SUPPORT YOU!



Ways to Effectively Advocate- *ACE it!*

- Be Informed –Focus on Facts/Get Perspectives
- Organize thoughts and state issue/concern you are experiencing
- Obtain/request supporting documentation
- Build Relationships
- Ask questions
- Stay calm and use respectful tone

Ways to Effectively Advocate- *ACE it!*

- Share expectations for learning
- Identify and offer support
- Know you are a part of the TEAM
- Talk to your child about their learning
- Learn the education lingo and what does it mean
- Communicate regularly and monitor progress



Get Involved and ACE it @ school!

Seek opportunities to ADVOCATE for education for your child by:

- Being involved in classrooms, school events, volunteer programs, advisory councils, and the PTA
- Use strategies learned to advocate effectively
- Promoting Literacy and Math at home/school – ESSENTIAL LEARNING and LIFE SKILLS!
- Starting and finishing the school year STRONG!

Exit ticket-

TELL ME YOUR ACE.....

Name something you learned today that you WILL use this school year.